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WLW
CINCINNATI

FORTUNES WASHED AWAY

115
P.M. - E.S.T.

A SERIES OF DRAMATIZATIONS OF BETTER LAND USE.

No. 169

"EIGHTY YEARS IN DARKE COUNTY"

July 19, 1941

ORGAN THEME: DEEP RIVER

VOICE

We took it for granted that land was everlasting;

We said ownership of the land insured security.

Tools would wear out, men would die --

But the land would remain.

ORGAN: HORROR CHORD

ANNOUNCER (cold)

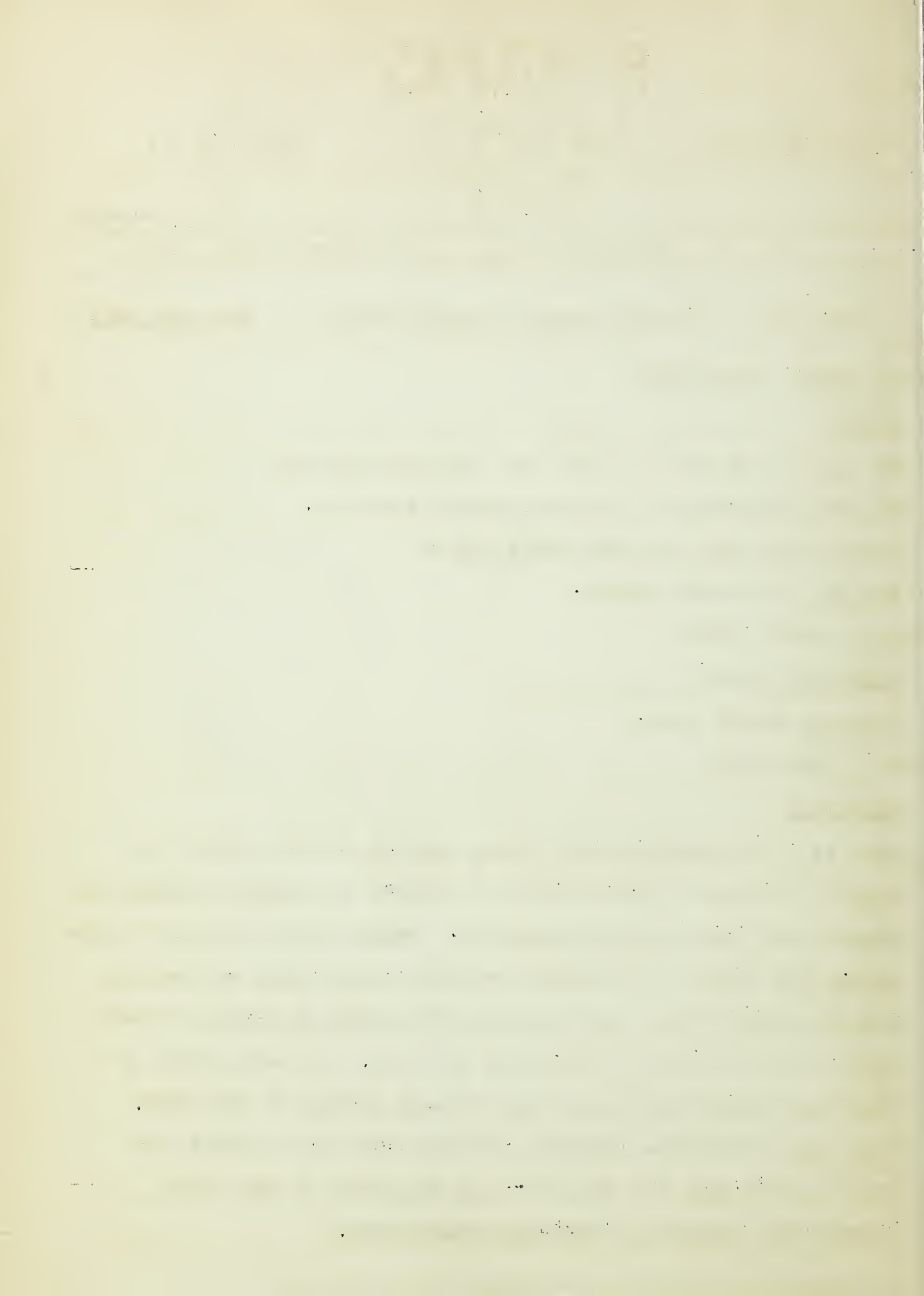
Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER

ANNOUNCER

Ohio is a rich agricultural state, and the richest county in general farming is Darke County -- richest in general farming and second most rich in corn production. Darke County is close to the soil. The lives of its people revolve around crops and weather and the county fair. In the spring the smell of freshly turned soil is in the air, in the summer and fall, the heavy aroma of ripening tomatoes and cigar leaf tobacco curing in the sheds. This land of fertile farmlands -- this land once covered with forests that shut out the sun -- is the scene of the 169th consecutive episode of "Fortunes Washed Away."





ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

Greenville is the county seat of Darke County. Two miles south and three miles east is one of the finest farms in a fine farming region -- the farm of J. E. Folkerth. Mr. Folkerth knows that land, too...(FADE)

ORGAN: WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, MAGGIE (softly and fade)

FOLKERTH (narrating)

I ought to know Darke County. My wife, Emma and I have lived here 84 years -- 61 years on this farm. Emma and I were talking just the other day about the old times. We've got an old dinner bell at the back of the side yard...pretty rusty now...but in the old times...

EMMA

It's a quaint old bell, Jesse.

FOLKERTH

I guess it's pretty old. But it'll ring a good many times -- while you're in the kitchen getting dinner ready.

SOUND: Dinner bell rings a couple of times...

EMMA

My! That can be heard a mile!

FOLKERTH

This is a big farm -- and now you're its mistress.

EMMA

It's been in the family a long time, hasn't it?

FOLKERTH

Yes, the Folkerths have been around here a long time. My grandfather and his two brothers settled here -- and the first mayor of Dayton was a relative -- Squire John Folkerth.

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EMMA

Quaint old bell -- look at this inscription: Made by B. C. Taylor,
Dayton, Ohio.

FOLKERTH

Father bought it from the wagon of a peddler that called at the
farm.

EMMA

It's a beautiful farm, Jesse. So rich, so fertile.

FOLKERTH

I'm going to keep it that way. If the markets hold up, and we
keep the land good, we can make a decent living -- and I want to
make a decent living for my bride!

EMMA

I know.

FOLKERTH

You should have heard grandfather talk about the old days.

EMMA

Were they so different from 1880?

FOLKERTH

Were they? Yes, they were. Around 1830, so I'm told, there were
plenty of bins of corn and wheat, and droves of swine -- but no
market. Wheat was worth two shillings a bushel, corn about half
that. Pork and beef were sold -- when they could be sold -- at
two or three cents a pound.

EMMA

And the land?

FOLKERTH

Rich. Inexhaustible. The kind that has made America great.

ORGAN: WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, MAGGIE.

FOLKERTH (narrating)

Yes, I know Darke County. In those days, little of the land was fenced, and roads were made in every direction, the main object being to shun the wet land and the trees. And there were trees, too...One day I was burning some brush when Peter Albright came up...

SOUND: Brush burning...

ALBRIGHT (fading in)

Getting rid of the timber mighty fast, aren't you, Jesse?

FOLKERTH

Oh, hello Peter. Not as fast as I'd like to. There's a lot of it.

ALBRIGHT

I know. About half of the land is in woods, and we've got to get rid of it if we want to get crops. I don't like all this labor of chopping them, though. I just try to burn 'em off.

FOLKERTH

There's not that much rush. The way I do -- I cut around the trees to deaden them in the summer, and then cut them down in the fall for fuel. Father built our house from woods taken from this farm.

ALBRIGHT

Nice house it is, too.

FOLKERTH

I like that big fireplace -- it'll take a four-foot backlog. But say, you going to grow any barley this year?

ALBRIGHT

Yessir, after I harvest the barley in June I'm going to do something else, too -- I'm going to plow the ground and plant it to tobacco.

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is essential for the proper management of the company's finances and for ensuring that all stakeholders are kept informed of the company's financial health.

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FOLKERTH

Tobacco?

ALBRIGHT

Yessir, tobacco. Pennsylvania seedleaf.

FOLKERTH

Nobody's ever grown tobacco around here.

ALBRIGHT

I know it, but Peter Albright's going to. One and a half acres.

That way I can get two crops in one year.

FOLKERTH

Corn's going to be my crop.

ALBRIGHT

Raising corn is too much work.

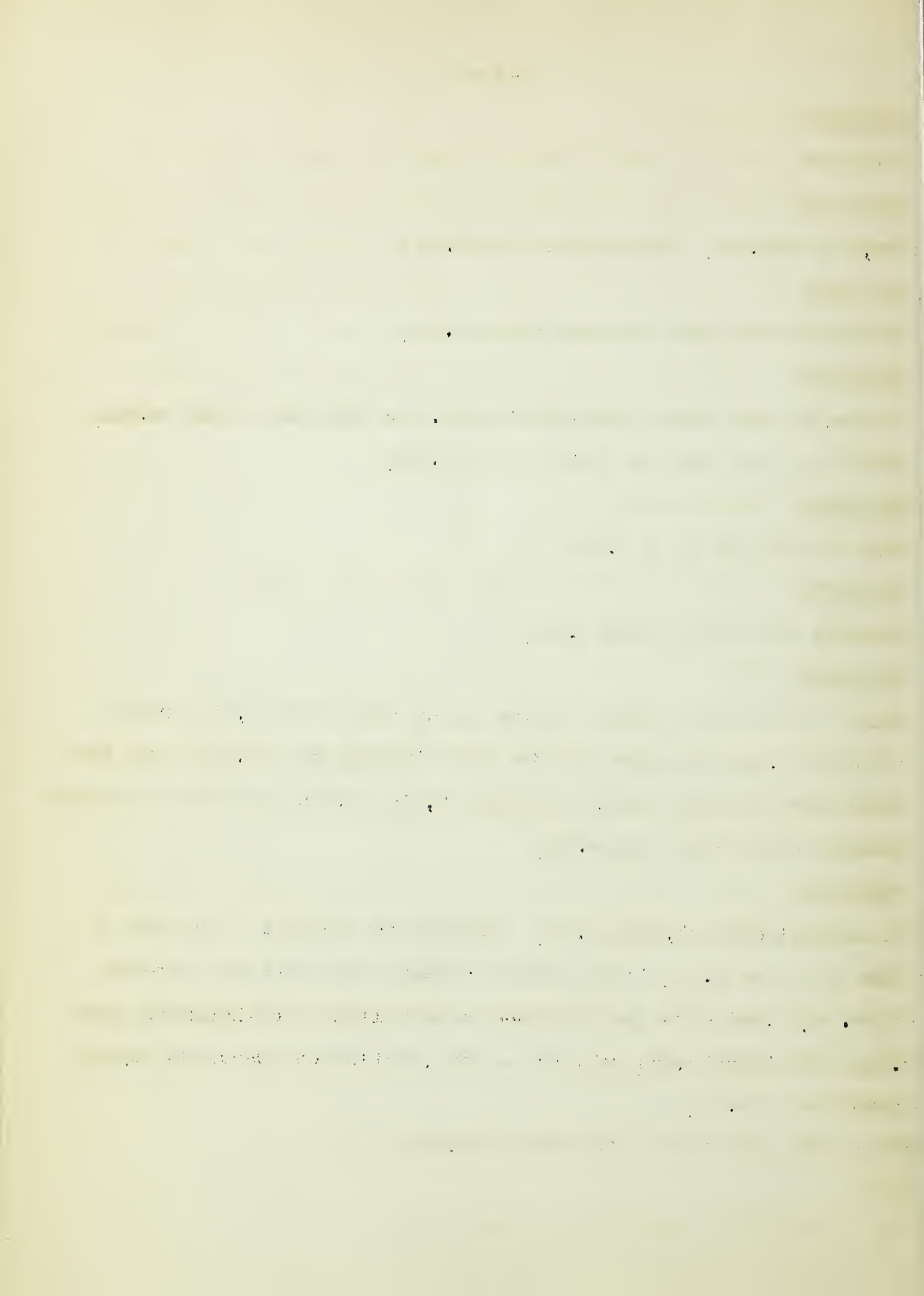
FOLKERTH

Sure it's a lot of work. You've got to drop it by hand, cover it with a hoe, and plow it five times during the season. But this land here in Darke County is mighty rich, Peter, and we'd be blamed fools to let it go otherwise.

ALBRIGHT

I reckon you're right, Jesse. Farming has changed a lot just in the last few years. It's bound to change more and more as time goes on. Now, I've got children -- and you'll have children some day. For their sake, as well as our own, let's keep Darke County good for farming.

ORGAN: WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, MAGGIE.



FOLKERTH (narrating)

I've seen a lot of farming changes since that day I talked to Peter Albright. Yep, his grandson Robert became one of the first large tobacco growers. Emma and I have a family, now. Some of our happiest days were those spent visiting our children in California this past winter. We've got a grandson who's a second lieutenant in the air corps. We have happy days on our farm, too....The other day I was mixing some paint for the house when...
(FADE)

SOUND: Paint being mixed...

EMMA (fading in)

You'd better stop and get ready for dinner now, Jesse.

FOLKERTH

All right, Emma.

EMMA

I wish you'd let someone else do that painting. You 8¹/₄ years old climbing up that ladder. It scares me.

FOLKERTH (laughing)

Being up a ladder might make some young folks dizzy, but not me.

SOUND: Screen door opens...

EMMA

We're going to eat in the kitchen. It's cooler in there.

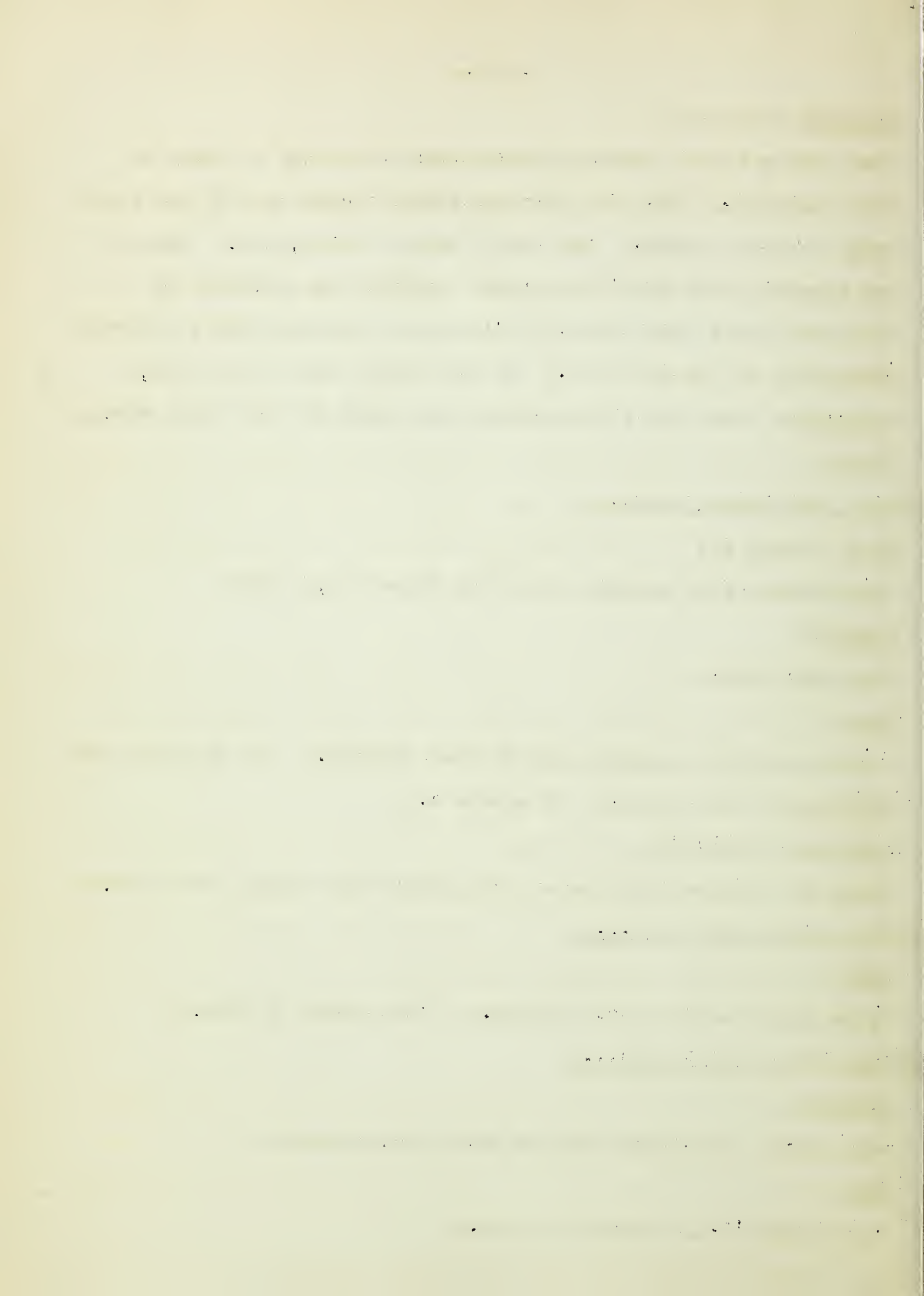
SOUND: Screen door closes...

FOLKERTH

All right. It wouldn't be the first time, would it?

EMMA

No, it wouldn't. Married 61 years.



FOLKERTH

Yep. There's that big old iron kettle that used to hang over the fire. It held plenty of soup. Well, times are changing.

EMMA

They sure are. All this machinery around here. I remember how you used to cut the grass for hay with a mowing scythe, and cut wheat with a cradle.

FOLKERTH

Farming methods change, Emma. just as people change. I'll admit, I don't like some of these new ideas -- and there are others that I do. Why, now -- who'd ever have thought of using lime and fertilizer sixty years ago?

EMMA

You must have forgot your history, Jesse. Why, don't you remember reading how the Indians used to put fish in the hills of corn? That was putting phosphorus into the soil.

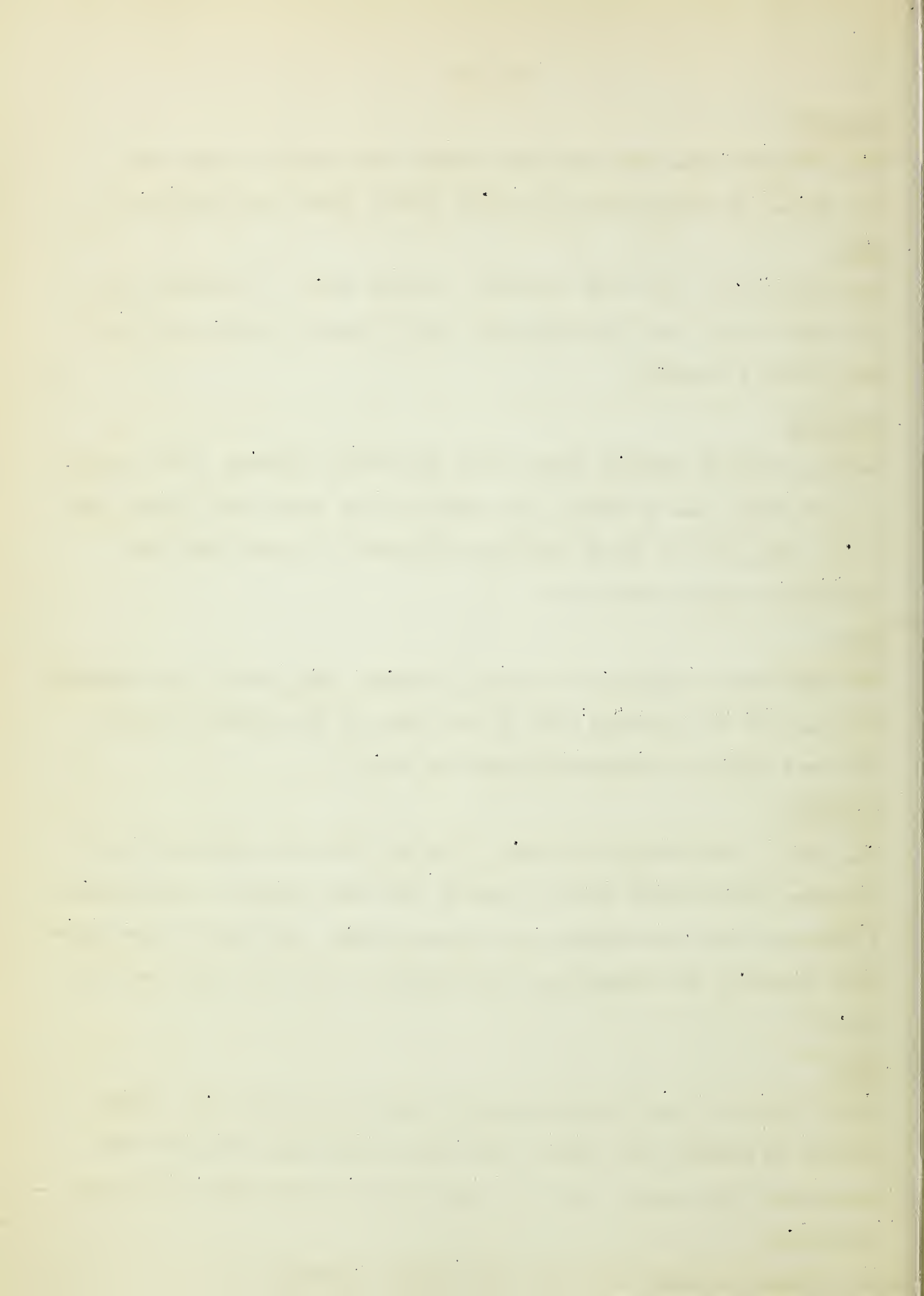
FOLKERTH

Oh, sure, I had forgotten that. And now that you mention it, I remember grandfather used to spread the wood ashes on the ground. I suppose that was nothing more than potash. And now we use barnyard manures, and commercial fertilizers -- all to keep the land good.

EMMA

We're lucky we don't have any soil erosion to speak of. Darke County is pretty flat, but I know some land right here in this so-called rich county that has just about washed away -- in our lifetime.

ORGAN: Sneak in WHEN YOU AND I WERE YOUNG, MAGGIE.



FOLKERTH

It's a shame, too, to see the land wash away just when America needs it most. Emma, I remember a description of this land in an old history of Darke County...let's see if I can recollect it. "The maples, elms and oaks in their holiday dresses of every hue and color...the winds toy with the branches; some are darkened in shadow, others are brilliant in the glow of light; and all around in bluish, smoke-like mists -- nature's portrait of the forest in fall-time splendor." That's how it was, Emma. It all makes you realize that America is a great nation -- if you treat it right.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

That is the story of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Folkerth, of Darke County, Ohio, a farm couple, 84 years old, that appreciates the need for erosion control in this country. And now, once again we turn to the United States Department of Agriculture, and speaking for the Soil Conservation Service is Ewing Jones.

JONES

Thanks, _____. I'll tell you, it was a real pleasure to talk to Mr. and Mrs. Folkerth the other day and get their impressions of the land as it was, and as it is now. One interesting point was that, even though soil erosion is negligible on their farm, they know it is a menace to permanent agriculture.

ANNOUNCER

Well, Ewing, I'll admit frankly that I'm no conservation specialist but I have observed that more and more farmers are thinking along the same line. After all, soil conservation is a part of national defense.

JONES

And we're certainly all agreed on that, _____.

ANNOUNCER

That brings up this question -- you don't mind a quiz, do you?

JONES

Not as long as you don't pull a "Scramby Amby" on me.

ANNOUNCER

We'll leave that to Ray Shannon. No, I was just wondering -- after hearing this story about the Folkerth family -- what's in the offing on the Fortunes Washed Away schedule?

JONES

_____, I won't try to give you a complete preview of coming attractions, like you do sometimes for the Boone County Jamboree, but here are a few samples for the coming month.

ANNOUNCER

Fine.

JONES

Slim White once treed a coon in some woods near Paoli, Indiana. He didn't realize it then -- that was some time ago -- but that woods has become one of the most famous in Southern Indiana. Slim asked permission of the owner to shoot that coon. I won't tell you what happened, but he did make his way back disconsolately to the spot where his dog was conversing with the world in general -- and we're going to that spot in two or three weeks.



ANNOUNCER

Next case.

JONES

The case of Wallis Clemens, versus soil erosion. Mr. Clemens is a farmer in Alcona County, Michigan -- and again I won't tell you the story just now -- but in that dramatization you'll hear these words....alfalfa, vetch, white clover, hereford cattle...

ANNOUNCER

No row crops?

JONES

Don't get ahead of the story, Judge._____.

ANNOUNCER

Your pardon, Prosecutor Jones. Next case.

JONES

The next case will be next week, and it will come from Wabash County, Indiana. On the banks of the Mississinewa River, where the famous Indian chief Wau-ca-coon-a is buried, is the farm of Dr. C. R. Green -- scene of what will be the 170th consecutive episode of "Fortunes Washed Away."

ANNOUNCER

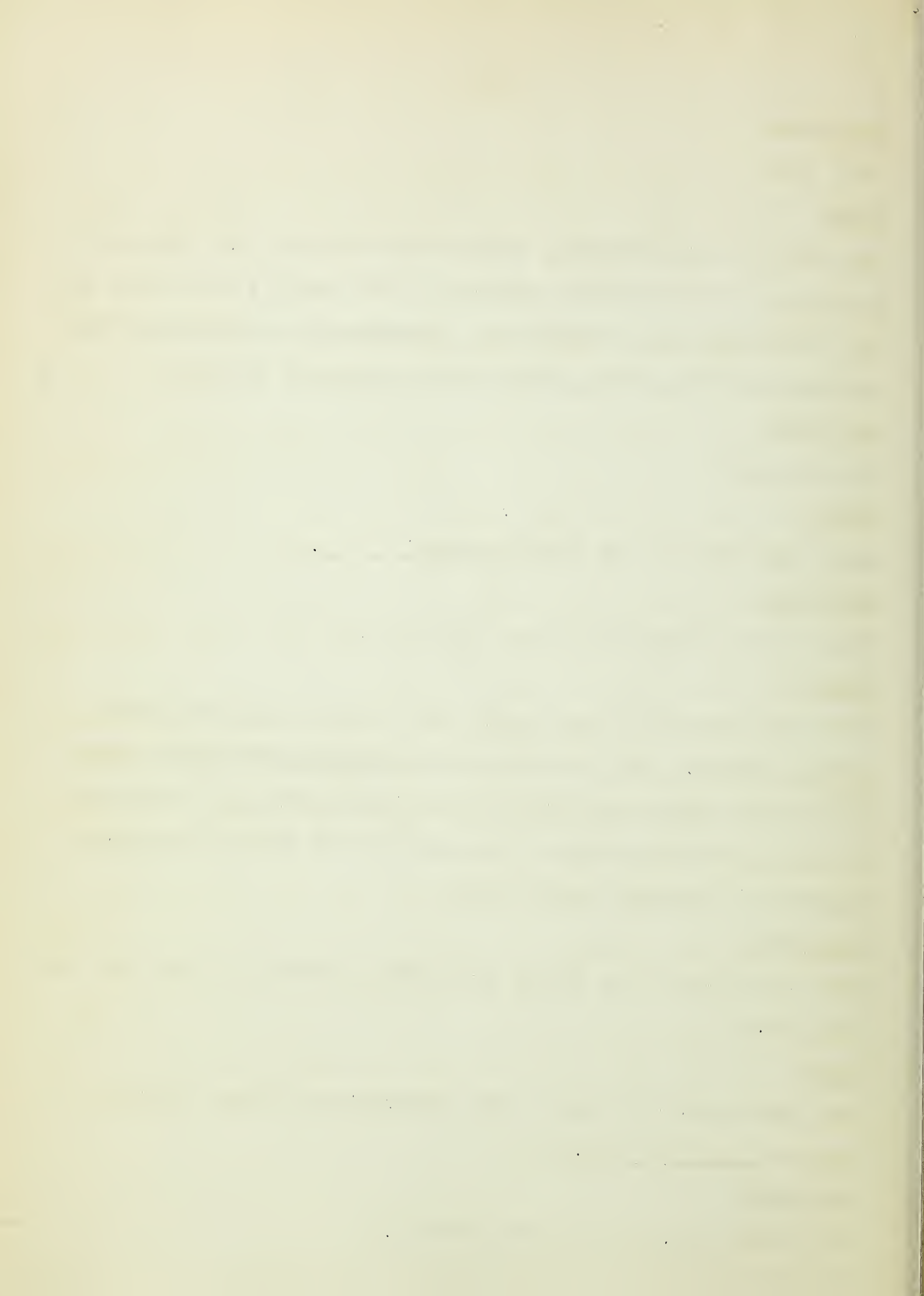
Well, that gives us a pretty good idea of what's in store the next few weeks.

JONES

And here's a bit of news in the conservation world. If you please, _____.

ANNOUNCER

Let's see, Ewing...this looks familiar.



JONES

_____, it's an amplification of the warning you gave a couple of weeks ago. It's in more detail, and the message bears repeating.

ANNOUNCER

Then I'll repeat it. During the past few years, farmers have been introduced to a new crop. Known by a multitude of names, no one had ever known or cared much about its real name....kudzu. Most people knew of it as porch vine. Others called it mile-a-minute, because of its rapid growth. Still others called it telephone vine. Lately a lot of folks have started calling it a "convenient" crop, meaning that it can be cut for hay whenever it is convenient to do so. You know, cowpeas, soybeans, and many of the other annual crops have to be cut at a certain time.

Now it's true that there's no specific time at which kudzu must be cut as there is with most other hay crops, but according to our most recent information, it should not be cut during August or September. We've just received a U. S. Department of Agriculture item which says that several instances have been observed where stands mowed during August or September were so seriously injured that they will require at least two years to be restored, the explanation being that the kudzu started to grow again, and the new growth made before frost reduced the starchy material in the roots to such a point that the plants were exhausted when frost came. (ANNOUNCER CONTINUES)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D.)

Farmers who have successfully grown kudzu have found that if two cuttings must be made to meet their hay needs, the first mowing should be made in June or July, and the second in the late fall, about the normal date of the first frost.

At the Alabama Experiment Station, kudzu mowed in August after having been mowed in June was almost destroyed. On the other hand, when mowed in June and November, the stand was not seriously injured. The explanation is simple. Frost stopped the new growth before it could exhaust the starchy food reserve in the roots. The material was then carried through the winter and supplied the plants with food on which to make vigorous new growth in the spring.

So remember, if you plan to mow your kudzu this month, don't mow it again until late fall about the normal date of the first frost. If you mow it in August or September, you may injure it seriously.

JONES

Thanks, _____. I hope farmers in the south, where kudzu is becoming so popular as an erosion control and hay crop, will keep your message in mind. And I hope farmers, everywhere, will keep in mind the so-called "Eleventh Commandment."

ORGAN: Sneak in DEEP RIVER.

ANNOUNCER

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or be destroyed from off the face of the earth."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

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